

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants acknowledge the indication that claim 3 is directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 3 and is thus deemed to be in allowable condition. Claims 3-4 are canceled. The objection in section 3 is traversed because the path metric storage section stores the path metrics output from the ACS calculation section and thus cooperates with another element of the claim.

In response to Section 2 of the office action, JP 8-167858 was cited in the International Search Report (ISR), which issued by the JPO. Thus, a copy was made available to the U.S. examiner in the national stage application, pursuant to MPEP 1893.03(g). Therefore, no copy of such art need be submitted by the Applicants. An indication of consideration of this reference by returning an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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